

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All the works of airports construction are proceeding as per schedule.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The target completion period of the airport is 33 months from the date of Financial Close. The Financial Close was achieved on 29th June 2005. The airport is likely to be ready for operation in April, 2008.

Delays in service of private airline operators

2130. SHRI M.V. MYSURAREDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Private Airlines Operators specially Air-Deccan flights get delayed very frequently throughout the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor alongwith the details thereof, operator-wise; and

(c) what is the action being taken to curtail the delays?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION
(SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) Air Deccan has informed that their on-time performance is almost at par with other domestic operators. Generally, the scheduled private airlines are adhering to the time schedule. However, at times the flights of all scheduled airlines are delayed due to weather, technical reasons, mandatory security checks, etc. some of which are beyond the control of the airlines.

Fund for security of airports

2131. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to spend Rs. 160 crore on surveillance at airports;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the action plan of Government to beef-up security at airports across the Country in the wake of Mumbai bomb blasts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, purchase order has been placed for procurement of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) for 6 airports namely Leh, Lucknow, Vadodara, Coimbatore, Pune and Jaipur at a cost of Rs. 1.81 crores. Hi-tech security arrangements including installation of new gadgets at Delhi, Mumbai, Bangalore and Hyderabad airports are under consideration/trial.

(c) Prescribed security arrangements at the airports which, *inter-alia*, include security of passengers, their cabin baggage, hold baggage, security of cargo etc. and physical security measures like perimeter protection, access control, both to the airport and the aircraft, are already in force. Threat perception to civil aviation sector is reviewed from time to time, especially in the wake of heightened threat, like Mumbai bomb blasts. Security arrangements at airports are suitably strengthened through enhanced security checks, intensive surveillance, introducing secondary security checks at the ladder point etc. during such contingencies.

National Competition Policy

2132. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is as yet no broader policy framework underlining the role of competition in the reform process even though the country is following a policy of market oriented economic reforms for the past one and a half decade;

(b) whether Government are considering adoption of a National Competition Policy for ensuring consistency and coherence across various Government policies on the touchstone of competition; and

(c) if so, what measures have been taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA): (a) to (c) As a part of the broad policy framework on competition, Government has already taken legislative and administrative measures to enable competition issues in the economy to be addressed. These include enactment of the competition Act, 2002, which provides, *inter alia*, for the establishment of a Commission to prevent practices having adverse effect